



The Honorable Chris Turner  
Chair – House Committee on Higher Education  
Texas Capitol E2.106

Chairman Turner,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's request for information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the operations of Texas Woman's University. Our responses are below. Please contact Kevin Crusier with any questions or concerns.

1. Are institutions of higher education ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty and staff during the 2020 Fall Semester? When applicable, please speak directly to classroom and lab settings, dormitories and dining halls.

- Texas Woman's University has an extensive program to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff including preventative measures such as:
  - reductions in class density and the number of in-person classes,
  - significant restrictions on other in-person events/meetings,
  - encouraging employees to work remotely when possible,
  - an in-house contact tracing process that is more aggressive than what is available in the community at large,
  - COVID-19 employee training,
  - strict face covering requirements,
  - enhanced cleaning procedures,
  - indoor and outdoor furniture change to encourage social distancing, and
  - outreach and education campaigns.
- Residence halls have more single rooms available than normal, and there are no triple or four-person rooms this fall. Four floors of rooms in the residence halls have also been set aside for isolation and quarantine rooms for residents as necessary. The effect of these changes has the cumulative effect of TWU's on campus housing operating at 75% capacity which has significantly impacted revenue and will hinder our ability to meet the debt service obligations of these facilities with that revenue.
- Dining facilities have made changes including reduced indoor seating, traffic flow and reduction procedures, elimination of self-serve and buffet style options, as well as additional grab and go options.

2. What plans are in place for on-campus COVID-19 testing? Do institutions have the capacity to provide testing on campus, both in terms of available supplies and labs to process tests?

- TWU will have the ability to test symptomatic and potentially exposed students through student health services, as well as all testing required by NCAA for student-athletes. PCR testing capacity will be through an outside lab, while antibody testing will be conducted via in-house equipment.

3. If applicable, what are plans for collegiate athletics this Fall? How will student athletes be kept safe? If fans will be permitted to attend events, how will fans be kept safe?

- TWU is following NCAA guidelines as they evolve, but is currently only providing student athletes with one-on-one or small group socially distanced practice sessions. Surveillance testing as per NCAA is being conducted on student athletes and staff with close contact. In accordance with the Lone Star Conference, there will be no competitions this fall and therefore fan safety is not a concern.

4. What do projected enrollment figures and formula funding look like to institutions for this school year?

- Overall, enrollment is slightly up. We have seen noteworthy increased enrollment in graduate students, and a noteworthy decrease in enrollment for both First Time In College ("FTIC" or "freshman") and new transfer student enrollment. Retention of existing undergraduate and graduate students is also above average. The overall impact on formula funding is determined not only by our enrollment growth, but our enrollment growth relative to other institutions. Therefore, at this time it would be premature to speculate on the impact of our modest growth in enrollment will have on formula funding.

5. Has there been a noticeable impact on staff or faculty retention with regard to concerns about the pandemic?

- The staff and faculty at TWU are definitely concerned with the reopening of campus this fall. The administration has worked diligently to meet with, discuss, and address those concerns and we have been largely successful retaining both faculty and staff. We have had a limited number of retirements and resignations by people whose decision to leave was likely impacted by COVID. However, the overall operation of our campus has not been significantly impacted by those losses and retention of faculty and staff remains at relatively normal levels compared to other years.

6. Health Related Institutions were exempt from the 5% budget cuts earlier this year, due to their important role in resolving the public health crisis. What are some of the programs, research, and responses to the pandemic that our Health Related Institutions have contributed?

- N/A

7. How have state and federal COVID-related funds already impacted budgets?

- The federal aid provided by the CARES Act has been a lifeline over the past 6 months and has definitely helped TWU to continue serving our students and the State of Texas. The expenses associated with pivoting to on-line learning were substantial and without

the CARES Act funding would have significantly affected operations. Expenses include but are not limited to:

- Providing technology to faculty, staff and students to facilitate online learning;
- Creating Wi-Fi access in parking garages and other common areas;
- Redesign of academic, housing, dining, and other facilities to accommodate social distancing; and
- Increased use of support services.
- In addition to expenses there were substantial losses in revenue for things like dining and parking fees that were either not collected or refunded to students.
- We continue to account for expenses and lost revenue related to COVID and appreciate the Governor and Legislature's efforts to collect this data through the LBB and other means.
- We are also grateful for the recent injection of funds into the Texas Grants program. Those funds are extremely important to the student body we serve at TWU. Over half of our students are "Pell Eligible" and any support for financial aid at the State and Federal level will be critical in maintaining our progress towards 60x30

8. How has the pandemic affected the overall financial status of small and rural community colleges? N/A

9. Does your institution have a public, online dashboard for the reporting of positive COVID-19 cases which is updated daily? If so, what is the link to the dashboard?

- Yes. <https://twu.edu/coronavirus/confirmed-cases/>